## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-25** 

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR IT LY

SUBJ: ITALIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS: ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT; JALLUD PRESS CONFERENCE

- 1. ON JANUARY 23 ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MORO, DURING GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, SINGLED OUT LIBYAN/ITALIAN RELATIONS FOR SPECIAL MENTION. MORO TOUCHED UPON PROBLEM AREAS IN GOI/LARG RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING EXPULSION OF ITALIAN COMMUNITY, PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF LIBYAN COMPLICITY IN TERRORIST OUTRAGE AT ROME AIRPORT IN DECEMBER, AND, INDIRECTLY, LIBYAN DEMAND FOR SACKING OF /LA STAMPA/ EDITOR LEVI. RE TERRORIST OUTRAGE AT ROME AIRPORT, MORO ACCEPTED QADHAFI'S DENIAL OF LIBYAN COMPLICITY, NOTING THAT ITALIANS HAD MADE SIMILAR JUDGMENT ON THEIR OWN. CONCERNING LIBYAN DEMAND FOR FIRING OF EDITOR LEVI, WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY NAMES, MORO REPEATED ITALIAN POSITION. IN EFFECT. REJECTING LIBYAN DEMAND.
- 2. PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS OF MORO'S REMARKS WAS TO EXTEND HAND FOR BROAD-RANGE COOPERATION WITH LIBYA FOR MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. MORO ASSERTED THAT DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, ITALIANS IN GOOD FAITH WILL DO THEIR PART IN OVERCOMING UNCLASSIFIED

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OBSTACLES TO GOOD RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

- 3. ON JANUARY 24 ITALIAN PRESS CARRIED SUMMARY OF PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY GIVEN PREVIOUS DAY BY LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLUD. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED JALLUD COMMENTS ON LIBYAN/ ITALIAN RELATIONS. IN REPLY TO QUERY RE PROSPECTS FOR LIBYAN/ITALIAN COLLABORATION IN FACE OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, JALLUD REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT "MOMENT HAD COME WHEN BOTH PARTIES SHOULD MAKE SACRIFICES." HE ACCUSED ITALIANS OF CONDUCTING "A SELECTIVE POLICY TOWARD LIBYA AS FAR AS TRADE WAS CONCERNED." ACCORDING TO JALLUD, ITALIANS TELL LIBYANS "WE CAN SELL YOU ONLY THIS MERCHANDISE. BUT NOT THAT. WE CANNOT GIVE YOU THIS BECAUSE IT HAS A STRATEGIC VALUE." JALLUD, IN REJECTING THIS ALLEGED ITALIAN POSTURE, STATED THAT "ITALY MUST PUT ITS IDEAS IN ORDER AND BE PREPARED TO MAKE ITS TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY." JALLUD IMPLIED THAT LIBYA EXPECTED THIS SACRIFICE FROM THE ITALIANS, AND IN TURN LIBYA WOULD SACRIFICE BY PRODUCING MORE OIL THAN WAS IN ITS INTEREST OR NEED.
- 4. ASKED IF IT WERE HIS INTENTION TO VISIT ITALY, JALLUD REPORTEDLY ANSWERED THAT HIS VISIT TO ROME REMAINS ONLY A "PROPOSAL". QUESTIONED ABOUT LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB TERRORISM, JALLUD DENIED THAT LARG GAVE EITHER REFUGE OR TRAINING TO TERRORISTS.
- 5. /COMMENT/: JALLUD'S PRESS CONFERENCE, AS REPORTED IN ROME, ALSO TOUCHED UPON OIL SITUATION, EMBARGO, AND WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. WE ASSUME FULLER VERSION OF JALLUD REMARKS ON THESE SUBJECTS AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY TRIPOLI.VOLPE

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